**Around the Bay – November 2022**

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**Strand Ward**

**Blenheim Reserve community park launch**

Newport’s Blenheim Reserve community park is nearly finished, and you’re invited to the official opening on Sunday 11 December, 10am to 12pm. Come along and check out the new forest walk and meditation space. The brand-new park also features a climbing tower, play areas, shelters and picnic facilities, barbecues, sculptures, fully irrigated lawn and garden beds, and a public toilet. The park is located next to the Australian Islamic Centre and Altona Miniature Railway.

**Coffee with Councillor Sutton-Legaud**

Meet one of your local Councillors, Cr Pamela Sutton-Legaud, at Newport Community Hub for our next *Coffee with a Councillo*r on **Saturday 19 November, 10am to 12pm**. This is a great chance to ask questions about key projects and areas of concern, while sharing a free hot drink. Council team members including customer service, traffic planning, and community engagement will also be there to answer questions about your local area. If there is a particular project or issue that you would like to talk about, please email [**communityengagement@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au**](mailto:communityengagement@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au) prior to the event.

**Newport Lakes nature walk**

Join local author [Deborah Frenkel](http://deborahfrenkel.com/) for a reading of her new picture book [*Naturopolis*](https://hbls.libsvic.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en_AU/hbls/search/results?qu=Naturopolis), then head outside for a guided adventure to spot the plants, animals and fungi. Suitable for kids and their grown-ups, meet at the Newport Community Hub on Saturday 19 November, 10.30am. Bookings essential at: [libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/whats-on/](https://libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/whats-on/library-events/children/4109-naturopolis-nature-walk-with-author-deborah-frenkel)

**Cherry Lake**

**JJ Ginifer Reserve revamp**

Altona North’s JJ Ginifer Reserve is getting a facelift! Have your say on the upgrade of this important open space until 1 December. Proposed improvements include, new and exciting play equipment, resurfacing the existing basketball and activity court, a new public gathering space with a shelter, picnic seating, drink fountain and bike hoops, and enhanced garden bed landscaping and nature play areas. To find out more visit, [**participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/jjginifer**](https://participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/jjginifer)

**Brooklyn Community Garden**

Are you a keen gardener in Brooklyn? Show your interest in being part of the Brooklyn Community Garden! The garden will be developed next to the Brooklyn Community Hall and will be approximately 500m2 (about the area of a basketball court). To find out more, visit **participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/brooklyn-community-garden**

**Dredging in Seaholme**

To maintain channel depth for boats, Council dredges 5,000 cubic metres of sediment from the Altona Safe Harbour annually. The sediment is then pumped onto the intertidal zone along the Seaholme foreshore to replace eroded sand. The sediment is initially black and dries to a sandy colour, and may cause a strong odour for a few weeks. Dog owners are encouraged to avoid the Altona dog beach (PA Burns Reserve) and instead use the dog off-leash area at Doug Grant Reserve on the Altona foreshore. Access to the boat ramp will not be impacted by the dredging. For enquiries, contact us on 1300 179 944.

**Wetlands**

**Dick Murdoch Reserve works completed!**

The Dick Murdoch Reserve in Laverton is now open to the public. The new park on Cole Street features a large custom multi-play tower, 40m flying fox, additional bench seating, a concrete scooter path, and extensive native and indigenous garden beds. Dick Murdoch Reserve is one of the eight community parks being upgraded as part of the Better Places Laverton program, and the Love Laverton Parks project. Six reserve upgrades are complete, with planning for the delivery of the final two at Bruce Street Reserve and Cropley Crescent Reserve in full swing.

**HD Graham Reserve redevelopment**

The HD Graham Reserve sport facility development is almost finished. The two soccer fields are complete, and the flood lighting has been installed. Final touches are being made on the sports pavilion which is scheduled to open on the 16 December 2022. HD Graham Reserve is located on a 19 hectare site which acts as the gateway to the Truganina Park, the 100 Steps of Federation and the internationally recognised Cheetham Wetlands.

**Woods Street Youth Arts Prize**

The 2022 Woods Street Youth Art Prize showcases 45 artworks created by young people aged 14 to 25 years of age from the western regions of Melbourne. Displaying a wide range of mediums from paintings to video installation, the art prize exhibition is a celebration of creativity, and our young people. The exhibition is open Thursdays to Saturdays, 12 noon until 5pm, at Woods Street Arts Space in Laverton until 19 November 2022.

**General**

**Citizen of the Year nominations open**

Do you know someone who makes a difference in our community? Someone who goes the extra mile to make Hobsons Bay a special place to live? Show them you value their contributions and nominate them for the 2023 Citizen of the Year or Young Citizen of the Year at [www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/citizenawards](http://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/citizenawards) or at your local library. Nominations close Sunday 11 December.

**Vacant blocks reminder**

Coming into summer, Council will be inspecting vacant blocks and broad acreage properties from November 2022 to January 2023 to assess if the property is a fire risk or hazard. Vacant blocks need to be mowed regularly, trees and bushes maintained, and there should be no combustible material on site. For properties over five acres, a fire break of 10 metres around the perimeter of the property is required. For more information, please call us 1300 179 944 and ask to speak to a member of our local laws department.

**Home renovators reminded of heritage requirements**

A friendly reminder to homeowners living in heritage overlays to apply for a permit for most external modifications, including solar panel installations, building extensions and window replacements, regardless of whether the individual house has heritage value. Property owners can apply for works permits online through Council’s website. For more information on heritage overlays in Hobsons Bay, visit [**www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Services/Planning-Building**](https://auc-word-edit.officeapps.live.com/we/www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Services/Planning-Building)

**Remembrance Day**

To mark Remembrance Day on Friday 11 November 2022, there will be an 11am service and wreath laying ceremony at the eternal flame/cenotaph at the Hobsons Bay Civic Centre at 115 Civic Parade, Altona. For more information, visit [**www.altonarsl.com/remembrance**](http://www.altonarsl.com/remembrance)or [**www.rslaustralia.org/remembrance-day-services**](http://www.rslaustralia.org/remembrance-day-services)

**Off The Wall heritage wallpaper exhibition**

Friday 2 and Saturday 3 December 2pm – 7pm, and Sunday 4 December 11am – 3pm, Williamstown Town Hall

Celebrated architect Phyllis Murphy AM spent many years of her professional and post-career life carefully preserving an astonishing collection of heritage wallpaper, some dating back to the 1840s. Don’t miss this unrepeatable opportunity to see samples of her collection on display. Entry is free.

**Cabaret Amongst the Carriages**

Friday 11 November and Saturday 12 November, 7.30pm to 9.50pm, Newport Railway Museum

Join in at sunset on the lawns of the Newport Railway Museum as it transforms into a unique performance venue. An entertaining and insightful journey, exploring characters and places that give the western suburbs of Melbourne its unique history and flavour. To book, visit [www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Community/Whats-On/Cabaret-amongst-the-Carriages](http://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Community/Whats-On/Cabaret-amongst-the-Carriages)